



GOD'S LOVE

THAT BEAUTIFUL HOME

Don't you want to enter that home,
That home of peace and rest?
There to dwell forevermore,
To live with the saved and blest.
If you expect to join that band,
Why not make your plans today?
He will lead you safely on
And watch over you all the way.

Come to God and ask forgiveness;
He will answer to your call.
Why not let Him plan your life?
He'll never fail or let you fall.
If you'll put your faith in Jesus,
Let Him mold your life for you;
You can then be in that number
To enter that home beyond the blue.

—Carmen L. Carter

THE GROUND OF

Vol. 37, No. 3

"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself."—John 14:2,3.

March 16, 1946

Notices

NEEDED—An evangelist for a rural church. Prefer someone who plays some musical instrument. Please write Rev. C. E. Hamilton, Valles Mines, Mo.

Texas State Camp Meeting

Will convene July 16-21. We are expecting one of the greatest camp meetings in history. You are invited.—V. B. Rains, state overseer.

This is to certify that Reverend S. L. Bunch, 180 Williams Road, Salinas, Calif., is an ordained Bishop and is in good standing in the Church of God.

By mistake his name failed to appear in the Minutes with the list of bishops.—John C. Jernigan, General Overseer.

DEATHS

RICHARDSON

Rev. Jack D. Richardson departed this life January 8, 1946, age twenty-five years.

He was pastoring the Church of God at Lamesa, Tex., and had just begun his pastoral work, had been pastoring only five months, but his work was successful.

He trusted God to the end, and when he surrendered to God's will, he said, "I am ready to go home; the victory has been won." No greater faith and endurance can be found than what he showed. We miss his cheerful smiles, but will say good morning to Bro. Jack over in glory.—His sister, Mrs. W. E. Rampy, Wichita Falls, Tex.

ROSS

Dorothy Ross, age twenty-one years, slipped away to be with Jesus on December 14, 1945. She was a loyal member of the Church of God at Schoolfield, Va. Her life proved a blessing and inspiration to all.—Her pastor's wife, Mrs. Roy Douglas, Schoolfield, Va.

COWART

In memory of Rev. R. N. Cowart, who was born October 10, 1884, and passed away January 8, 1946. Brother Cowart was a member and minister of the Church of God in Mississippi for approximately fifteen years. His ministry of praying for the sick and preaching the gospel in out-of-way places will be long remembered. Many good things could be said about our

brother, but life's other side awaits to reveal them all. His last testimony was, "Everything is fixed; I'll meet you over there."

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Colon T. Dunn in the tabernacle near Brother Cowart's home, which he erected himself for the purpose of worshipping God. His body was laid to rest in the cemetery near by. To our sorrow we saw him go, but to our joy we look forward to the time we shall meet again.—His pastor, Rev. Wilburn Roberts.

SETSER

On January 16, 1946, the Lord in His divine wisdom saw fit to send His angels to take Rev. W. T. Setser to that mansion he had been working for for thirty-five years. Bro. Setser was a faithful warrior and I think was one of the oldest Church of God ministers. Many times he would walk fifteen and twenty miles on Sunday, cars not being so plentiful, and preach Sunday morning and Sunday night, and walk back home, getting there about three o'clock in the morning, lie down and rest for an hour or so, then get up at four, go to the field and plow all day. We need more preachers today with the zeal Bro. Setser had.

The funeral service was held at the Toonigh, Ga., Church of God, of which he was a charter member. Brother Bell, assisted by Bro. A. H. Griffin and the writer, conducted the funeral.

Bro. Setser leaves his widow and fourteen children, several grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends. Pray for this family.—His pastor, Rev. J. W. Daniel, Lebanon, Ga.

GOFORTH

Brother Johnny F. Goforth went home to be with Jesus February 25,

1946; age thirty years. It was a terrible shock to everyone, as Brother Johnny was accidentally killed on his oil rig. His last testimony at church was that he was ready to go.

Pray for his precious wife who is left with two small children.—His pastor, Rev. W. E. Rampy, Wichita Falls, Tex.

FAULK

Sister Mollie Faulk, a member of the Church of God here, departed this life February 1, 1946; age sixty years. She left the testimony that she was ready to go.—E. B. Boatwright, president, Y.P.E., Marion, S. C.

HAYNES

Brother Martin Scott Haynes passed from this life February 5, 1946; age eighty-two years. He lived to a ripe old age. He preached many years, set churches in order in many places, and was known in his younger days to be a very successful evangelist. Many of his converts are still living for God and will have the pleasure of meeting him again, if they will be faithful.

May God's blessings be with each of his loved ones in our prayer.—His pastor, W. Burle Sumner, 604 Avenue W, Pratt City, Birmingham 8, Ala.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

PRAY FOR:

God to undertake for my wife.—Wardie Mann, 1261 Ida St., Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

My nephew, who has lost his mind.—Mrs. Hulda Turk, 92 10th St., Clintonville, Wisc.

(Continued on page 11)

ATTENTION, MUSIC LOVERS!

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IT IS A PRACTICE of most business concerns to take inventory near the close of the old year. In so doing, they find out the condition of their business, whether it is gaining, whether it is losing, or whether it is holding its own. In our text, we are to examine ourselves (not the other fellow) and see how we stand in our experience with God. We need this examination to prove whether we are in the faith, for it is possible to be deceived, and deceit is very dangerous. What a reproachful thing it is for a man not to know his own self.

We need to examine our consecration. By consecration we mean the devotion of our whole life, body, soul, and spirit to God. Paul says in Rom. 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." God wants a person that is entirely consecrated to Him. Entire consecration includes three things; namely, being, doing, and suffering. We must be willing to be what God wants us to be, and to suffer what He wants us to suffer. Many times we are willing to be something for God, but when the time comes to do something for Him or suffer some reproach for Him, we long to move out of the picture.

God had told Moses to tell the children of Israel they were to have no other gods before Him. He said further He was a jealous God. I don't believe there are so many people in our land that bow down to images like the heathen do, but anything that comes between us and God will be an idol in God's sight. Entire devotion is what our God requires.

The different sacrifices that were offered under the law were sacrificed by the priest, but presented by the offerer. The offerer would lay his hand on the sacrifice to signify he was giving God all right and title to the sacrifice. We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, not killed like these animals were, but living unto God, giving Him the right and title to our lives. We must not yield our bodies as instruments of sin, but as set apart for the use God may have of them.

Christ has purchased our redemption so we are responsible to Him for what we do. 1 Cor. 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Christ has bought back all that man lost when sin entered upon the human race. The price

Taking Inventory

By Mrs. Ruth Starnes

of redemption was indeed a great price, yet He has made it possible for us to live an entirely yielded life to God in this present world. We are a new creation if we are in Christ, so we need to be sure we are in Him.

To live a consecrated life we must be separated from the unclean. I cannot imagine a holy God having anyone who is unclean. Jesus says in John 15:19, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." When we are chosen of God we will not mix and mingle with the things of the world, neither will they have anything to do with us. We shed off these things the same as we would an old garment. There is a separation line drawn and we must stay on the right side of that line. 1 John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Even though we must dwell in this world, we need to abstain from its sin and corruption. The heart of man cannot hold the love for God and the world at the same time. The world is at enmity with God, so the more love we have for the world the less love we have for God. We must be crucified to the world and the things therein.

Let us examine our conduct. If our lives are consecrated to God, then our conduct will be such as becometh godliness. Paul said in 1 Cor. 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Can we say these words to someone else? Would we want people to follow the example we are setting? How do we act in our home life? Paul told Timothy, "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures." The faith that Timothy had was first found in his mother and grandmother. He had been taught about God. He had a god-

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" 2 Cor. 13:5.

ly example to follow and later he became a minister of the gospel. If we conduct ourselves as Christians in our homes, we will make a good example for our children.

Not only are mothers and fathers to set good examples but every Christian should do so. Paul told Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith in purity." Age doesn't have so much to do with being a good example, but living a godly life does. If we fail to live the life ourselves, we will not be able to persuade others to do so. If we don't like our product we will not be able to sell it to others.

What about our social life? Do we lift Jesus up among our friends? When we are among people of the world, do we let our lights shine? The story is told of a man who went far off from home to try out a new job. Shortly after, he became discouraged and came home.

Soon a second man went to try the same job and he got along swell. The first man asked the second, "How do you get along so well? When I was on that job, every time I would pray they would curse me and at times throw things at me." The second man said, "Why I didn't even tell them I was a Christian." I am persuaded to believe he wasn't much of a Christian. Jesus said if we are ashamed of Him in this sinful and adulterous generation, He will be ashamed of us before His Father.

Some people are afraid of holiness. They look at holiness as something awful, but it simply means clean living. Eph. 5:15, 16, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." We may be called upon to walk through some very dark places, but while we are seemingly in the dark, our Christian light can shine the brightest. We have nothing to fear if He is by our side. Happy are we, if we are reproached for Christ's sake.

Does the public have confidence in our profession of God? If we live the life, they will. They may ridicule us and laugh us to scorn, but they know

(Continued on page 14)

RELIGION... and the World

BY THE EDITOR

NEW BUILDING

The picture on pages 8 and 9 is the artist's drawing of the proposed new office building and publishing house of the Church of God. This building will be erected on a lot directly opposite the post office, if the Supreme Council gives their O. K., when plans are finally completed and cost is estimated. The entire floor space as planned in the publishing plant and office building would be approximately 65,000 square feet. The building is to be constructed of brick, concrete, and steel, making it entirely fireproof.

The old publishing house was located on Gaut Street, where it had a very small beginning. Over the years, however, the publishing house has grown until today the present beautiful and once spacious capacity and ample roomy building, constructed of brick and steel, is crowded to its uttermost capacity with equipment, stocks, and workers.

Equipment

During the war, the shortage of equipment, skilled workers, and paper made it very difficult to take care of the publications of the Church. The paper situation is at present still critical. We are also still very short on various kinds of machinery. We have on order, however, with contracts signed and near three thousand dollars deposited as part payment, two Major Miller presses, costing over \$25,000; one Kelly No. C press, \$5,000; one cutter, \$4,000; one gang stitcher, \$2,400; one small stitcher, \$300; \$3,500 worth of composing equipment, and one Linotype, \$5,500. Since the Assembly, we have purchased and installed one Miller Simplex press, practically new, at a cost of around \$6,750, one Baum folder at \$3,100. With the above equipment in the new publishing house, we will be geared to production sufficient to take on the Spanish literature and most all types of printing, for reasonable time delivery, along with the present load of publications and Sunday School literature.

Music Type

The American Type Founders has accepted an order to cut two fonts of new Diamond No. 1 music type. The old type we sold last year was mixed with Diamond No. 1, 2, and 3, resulting in a quantity of dead and unusable type, and, if used at all, was of various sizes to the extent that the music was confused and unappreciated in appearance. With the cutting of these new fonts of type, we will have brand-new type of the finest in the country, and all of one size. Much of the old type we sold is being discarded by the firm which purchased it. Instead of having around twelve thousand dollars in music type, we will have between four and five thousand, and have at the same time new and better type. With the installment of music type again, we will make our own music plates. We would also make plates for other publishers.

This expansion of building and equipment is urgently needed to care for the growth of the Church of God generally. We also stand in need of your prayers and cooperation in every way, that God may prosper the Church in its great mission endeavor.

The Old and the New

There are 190 references in the New Testament to the first five books of the Old Testament, commonly called the Pentateuch: 101 references to the book of Psalms; 104 references to the book of Isaiah, and 30 references to the Minor Prophets. There are, in the New Testament, some 639 references to the Old. These references are spread throughout most all the books of the New Testament except three of the Epistles. For instance, there are

191 references to the Old in the four Gospels: 52 in Acts; 67 in Romans, etc.

Not for Sale

Time, under date of March 4, 1946, reported an interesting event relative to an effort to sell St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, located on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, New York. The Consistory of New York's Collegiate Reformed Dutch churches had voted to sell Dr. Sizoo's "church for some \$3,750,000 to a corporation which

planned to build a 50-story skyscraper on the lot. This sum, they said, would pay off the church's mortgage, leave \$3,000,000 to build a fine new church in the fashionable East Seventies. But Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo did not want a new church. Sizzled Sizoo: 'It is putting the dollar sign before the cross! I'm not defending brick and mortar. The issue is not, shall St. Nicholas Church be moved—but rather: shall religion retreat'

"Dr. Sizoo called his parishioners to a 'day of prayer for intercession,' took to the air to denounce 'the rising tides of secularism.' He charged that part of the consistory (33 ministers, deacons and elders) had succumbed to 'the lure of material things.'

"I am reminded," he added, 'of what a distinguished Boston judge said when a group tried to sell historic Old South Church in Boston. He hoped the time would never come when God could not afford to own a corner lot in the city of Boston.'

"Last week Dr. Sizoo's fight had apparently succeeded. Two parishioners had offered \$350,000 toward redeeming the mortgage if others would contribute a like amount. It looked as if God could still afford a corner lot on Fifth Avenue."

It is men of this type who keep God out in the front line where He can get a chance at His enemies.

The Surgiscope

The *Boston Globe*, writing on the "surgiscope," which was first installed in Cushing Hospital, Framingham, Mass., "after 78,000 tests," states that "a continuous and complete record of an intricate brain operation was made."

THE CHURCH OF GOD EVANGEL

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UNMUZZLING THE OX

Paul, the great apostle and overseer of the Gentile church, who is able to speak efficiently and with authority, gives us a wonderful outline in this scripture, 1 Cor. 9:7-18, concerning the relationship that should exist between the laity and the ministry. I believe if both the minister and the church understood perfectly God's plan of relationship that should exist between them, there would be far less trouble in the church. The church would advance in a greater way. The church has been hindered because of lack of understanding. Misunderstanding has caused more trouble in the church than anything else. It is the devil's job to hinder the prayers of the church by causing divisions, blinding the hearts of the people. You will find my text in the 9th verse, "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox." Also, in Deut. 25:4; 1 Tim. 5:18, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox." The Lord has used this simple illustration to bring a thought to the people, and simply refers to the minister as an ox. He puts the minister on the level of an ox. Let us find out what the nature of the ox was, what his work was and his place, and see if we meet the demands and fill the place of the ox.

FIRST

The ox in years past was one of the most highly prized animals, in fact, it was about the only animal they could not do without. They largely depended on the ox for their support. The ox was the beast of burden. His duty was to bear the burdens of the people regardless of what their burdens were. They were about the only dependable means of transportation of that day. Railroads were unknown. They didn't have any trains or transfer trucks and automobiles like we have today. They loaded their burdens on the back of the ox. They put a pack saddle on him and he carried the burdens for the people. Whether you recognize it or not, this is a true comparison of the ministry. The true minister must carry the burdens of his people. He is the burden-bearer of the church.

SECOND

Not only does the ox bear the burdens but he pulls all their loads. They place the big, heavy yoke upon his

By Rev. H. W. Dennis



neck, fastened on with a bow and a couple of pegs, no doubt very hard to pull against. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Yet, it remains a fact we must put on a yoke. The ox is not as fast as some of our high-speeded machines today, but when he lays against the yoke you can be assured the load is going to move. Pastors, missionaries, and evangelists must lead the way in pulling the load. The church will never rise above the spiritual level of the pastor.

There was never a revival that reached any greater spiritual power than what the evangelist has in his own life. It is up to the minister, when it looks like everything is going to hit the rocks, to lead the way in pulling the load. When finance is needed, it falls on the minister's shoulders to raise the money. When there is nobody in the altar to pray with the seekers, it falls on the minister to do all the praying. The minister must somehow get in the yoke and shoulder the responsibility or see it go down in defeat. So we have to be oxen.

The minister is to be a servant to the public. He is not a free man. He never knows when he goes to bed, at what hour he will be called on to go across town or a mile or two across the country to pray for the sick or when his plans will be called off to attend a funeral. In case of a death, the family or some relative consults the undertaker, makes the plans for the funeral and sets the time, finally calling the minister and informing him that he is expected to be there. Other people can live where they please, but he has to live where God sends him, if it's in America or in Africa. He is the servant of the people and belongs to God's given service, therefore, has no liberties of his own, other than just to live and serve. The ox was the beast of burden. The minister carries the burdens of the people. When sickness or death comes into a home, how you want a man of God. When the

son of the Shunammite woman died, she said, "Take me to the man of God." When trouble, sickness, heartaches, and disappointments come, nobody can solve these problems like the touch of the hand of the man of God.

I remember just a few weeks ago, in a family that doesn't even have one in the entire family who professes salvation, an infant had taken pneumonia. They called the doctor. He couldn't come right away. They sent one of the children out to my house and she said, "Would you please come and pray for the baby?" I said, "Yes, I'll go." I got my coat and hat and went through the rain to pray for the baby. Some of the other neighbors had come in, but in the whole crowd of people who were there not a one except my wife and I claimed salvation; yet, they were all burdened, they wanted somebody to help them bear their burdens. We knelt by the child and laid our hands on it, asking the Lord to heal, and the Lord touched its body and it got better.

I know people curse the minister and make fun of him, but when the death rattle comes in their throat they want the minister, a man of God, near-by. They want someone who knows how to pray and get hold of God for their needs. If it were not for the ministers of God holding up the religion of Jesus Christ, this world would be a terrible place in which to live. You may call a doctor when you get sick and need physical help; you seek a lawyer's advice in time of legal procedure, yet, back of all, you want to come to the minister, the man of God, with your troubles. There is no human being today who can satisfy, sympathize, and encourage and help people in their burdens like the minister. That is his place in life. Many people get sick and won't send for their pastor to come and pray for them, yet they will talk about him for not visiting them. There is nothing more heart-breaking to a pastor than to feel that his people don't need him in time of trouble, sorrow, or distress.

Deep down in the heart of every true minister there is a great appreciation of the fact of knowing the people have confidence in him and

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Seven Great Principles

Taught in the 23rd Psalm

In this time of distrust among people and nations, we would like to call your attention to the first great principle of this study.

I. ASSURANCE

Verse 1, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Today we have the social security act, old age insurance, bank accounts, the Atlantic Charter, the San Francisco Peace Charter, and so on; but David had his eyes on something far greater than man could devise when he stood out in the great stream of time and said those blessed words in the above verse. This is what he says, "I have tried Him. I know He is a good shepherd. He supplies my need." Friend, that is the best assurance you will ever be able to acquire. The peace charters, etc., may be all right, but an acquaintance with the Good Shepherd is best of all.

II. PEACE

Verse 2, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ..." What can be more blessed, or comforting after you have been through a great battle for the Lord, have been on the front line facing the devil in an artillery duel, such as a revival campaign, or a pastoral load with discouragement and responsibility weighting you down, with your eyes just above water, then for the Good Shepherd to say, "Come now, lie down in the green pasture beside the still waters, and rest for a while"? Oh, what peace and rest for a tired soldier of the cross!

III. GUIDANCE

Verse 3, "... he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness ..." If there ever was a time for divine guidance, it surely is the day in which we are living, this day of universal perplexity. Fathers need this guidance; mothers also, who, according to the Word, should guide the house. Our boys and girls in Service for our country, our young people, all, in fact, need the strong, sturdy hand of guidance that only the Good Shepherd can give. Oh, isn't it wonderful to have someone to

look to who can adjust any circumstance in the perfect way, by simply placing our weak, faltering hand in His big, strong one, and letting Him guide us through life's darkest trials, for He has been the way before!

IV. SECURITY

Verse 4, "... thou art with me ..."

By Rev. W. C. Swilley

When we are in the wild forest among various beasts, a good, loaded gun gives us some sense of security. When we are in a mean section of a large town at night, it seems good to have a police squad car close around. Even so, when Satan comes around and says that you never have had any religion, and if you did you have lost it, and tells you many cunning lies that he is capable of sponsoring, it is a fine thing to have that blessed security of knowing that "Thou art with me." Praise His good name! As I pen these words, it seems I could reach out and touch Him, He is so real!

V. SATISFACTION

Verse 5, "... my cup runneth over." I am sure most of the readers know what it is to be somewhat down in spirit and chance to go to a good service and the showers fall from yonder's world, then your soul be filled and made fat. What a feast! Then you can say with David, "My cup runneth over," while others will be blessed by your overflowing life.

VI. THE CHRISTIAN WARES

Verse 6, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me ..." Peter and John met a man at the gate Beautiful who was lame and thought he needed more money; but listen, brother, he needed what Peter and John had and that wasn't silver and gold. Peter says,

"Such as I have give I unto thee," and you know the story of a miraculous healing which stirred Jerusalem. Say, Christian, this world is badly in need of something; it isn't more pleasure, more money, more homes, autos, furniture or such like, but it is dying for what you have, or should have, if you please, and that is "goodness and mercy." There is nothing sweeter or finer than to see a saint of God going about among the throngs of this world administering mercy with one hand and goodness with the other. Christian friend, you are in your proper place when you have an abundant supply of these sacred gifts to offer this sick, weary, war-torn world. Let us strive hard to do as He, the Good Shepherd, would do if He were here among men."

VII. THE DIVINE ABODE

Verse 6, "... I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Just think of the time when all God's tired, wayworn soldiers get home, never have to pack up and move again, but just settle down in heaven and "dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Glory! Glory! Christian, let us fight on and do our best till the Good Shepherd comes for those who have been faithful, and takes us to the home prepared for us from the foundation of the world. Amen.

SPOKANE BIBLE SCHOOL

By E. E. COLEMAN, Principal

Our first term in Spokane will terminate in about one month, on April 5. It will have been a blessed six months. God has been very real to us. We have had a fine student body with which to work.

Twelve subjects are being taught in the school this year. Next year we hope to add six others, which will constitute our senior classes.

The juniors of 1945-46 will be the seniors of 1946-47; and the freshmen of 1945-46 will be the juniors of 1946-47. We trust to have each one of

them back next year.

Now we come to the FRESHMEN of 1946-47. Who will be in that class? Don't you wish you knew? No. I'd rather wait and experience the thrill and tingle of excitement at the opening of school, as we meet the freshmen from the different states. That is going to be a real pleasure for those who are privileged to be there. I hope we have at least twenty-five freshmen. Will you be in the number??

If you feel that God has a work for (Continued on page 11)

We find in God's Word two ways in which to travel, the broad way and the narrow way. Matt. 7:13, "Broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat."

Dear readers, stop and think which one of the ways you are going. Remember, this life on earth is short. Each setting of the sun is shortening our time here and is swiftly carrying us on to eternity. What will be your choice, heaven or hell? It's time now to think. We have no promise of tomorrow. James 25:15 says, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." Paul says in 2 Cor. 6:2, "Now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation." Many have said, "I'll wait until some other time," but they went out to meet God unprepared.

Just stop one moment and consider your life. What is your aim? What and where would your destination be for eternity, if now, at this moment, Jesus should come? Matt. 24:44, "Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Or, He may call for you at any moment. When the death angel calls for you, he will not accept any excuse. You will not have any time to repent then. He is no respecter of persons. The rich, the poor, the lame, and the blind must go at the appointed time. We all must meet death, prepared or unprepared.

There are people today who say we have a thousand years to repent after death, but the Bible says in Heb. 9:27, it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment. In Luke 16:22, the rich man died and was buried and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment; but he must not have had a chance to repent after death.

You may meet death when you least expect it. You had better consider every day and every hour just where your thoughts and deeds are leading you. You are at this moment, and will be at the hour of death, on the broad or the narrow way. There is no between in a Christian life. It is woe to you if you are on the broad way. The devil is your inspirer and guide. Him you obey. His angels are ever near you, filling your mind with worry and unrest and the cares of this life. You are bearing fruits like all others on the broad way to destruction. They are like branches of a tree rooted and nourished from the depths of hell and all the powers of hell supporting it. Woe unto you if your life is bearing

fruit of this tree. It cannot be good fruit, and Matt. 3:10 says every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. Do you want to be one in that number? If not, then you had better obey Acts 3:9, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Gal. 5:16, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." If you are on the broad way, then you are not walking in the Spirit. Can't you now separate yourself from the world? You may be busy planning for the future and tomorrow all may be quiet, just your still form remain, your soul be gone to meet God.

The Two Ways



By Mattie Amos

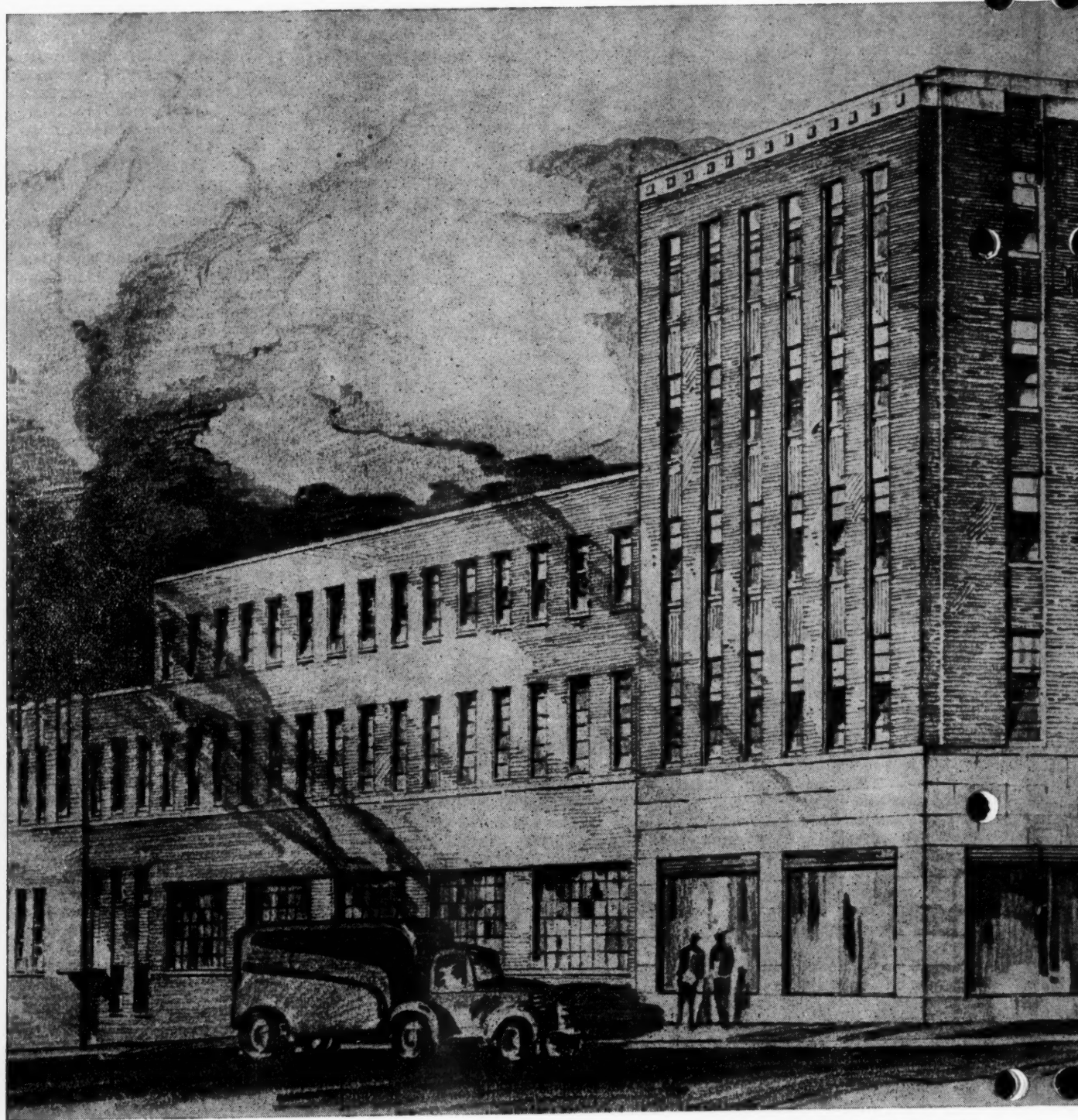
Dear reader, this has happened many times. You may be next. Just think of the worth of a soul. Who can count its value, or who can appraise its worth? An immortal soul is beyond all price. Your soul is of more value than the wealth of the world. God loves your soul but Satan hates your soul and is using all energy for the very purpose of ruining your soul. When your body has crumbled to dust and passed away into the forgotten past, your soul will still be living somewhere. Just stop and think, "Am I ready to meet God should He come or call? If you are on that broad way, you had better turn and seek salvation while the door of mercy is still open, through the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ. You can be saved. He is ready and willing to forgive, but without His pardon you are lost. You don't have to be in church to find God, although it is the proper place.

Jesus can save you at any time or place you will meet the conditions. Isa. 59:1, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." God has done all He can that we might be saved. John 6:37, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." There is only one way into His presence. Rom. 10:9, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Then when He forgives all of your past, you have been washed in His blood, you have then stepped over into the narrow way. Matt. 7:14, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leadeth into life, and few there be that find it." True it is today—there are very few on this strait and narrow way. So many people are more lovers of pleasure than lovers of God, but the few who will accept God and walk in this narrow way will have power to overcome all evil and temptations the devil has laid in the way of God's chosen people. Jesus said in His Word that with every temptation He would make a way of escape.

After you get in the narrow way you then will be bearing good fruit and will be likened to the branches of a tree rooted in Christ, with all the power of heaven supporting it, and blessed are they who have much of this fruit in their lives. You can have it. For us to be on safe ground we must be in the narrow way, then we will not be afraid to die, for the Holy Ghost is our guide, the angels will be our protector, we will have joy unspeakable in our souls, and when we come to the hour of death we can say as Paul did, 2 Tim. 4:6, "I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand." If we have lived true to God, stayed in the strait and narrow way, we can say, verse 7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," and we can hear the Lord say, Matt. 25:21, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many: enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

Dear ones, if you are not in the narrow way, you had better seek the Lord now for His coming is near. This is from my heart. May God bless and save everyone who reads this, is my prayer.

Proposed New Office Building and



nd Publishing House . . .

For Comment See
Page Four



MARCH 16, 1946

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REPORTS *From the Field*

Another New Church for Kansas

FREDONIA, Kans.—On November 11, 1945, Rev. W. R. Collins and family, Sister Verna Henry and I came to Fredonia, Kans., to start a revival. The first night of the revival not a soul came to the service but the workers. We began to pray and believe God for an old-time revival and in three weeks the building was filled with hungry souls seeking God. So far there have been seventeen saved, four sanctified, four filled with the Holy Ghost, and thirteen added to the church. Sunday, February 10, we had fifty-seven in Sunday School.

On February 7, Rev. A. R. Pedigo, our state overseer, and Brother Collins purchased a nice six-room parsonage for the church, costing \$3,100. The churches of Kansas should be very thankful for our state Y.P.E. and Sunday School superintendent, Rev. W. R. Collins, who has labored so faithfully in his work, and has helped to establish six new churches in the past three years. I am glad to be a co-worker with this worthy family.—Mrs. Zoe Brown, 315 W. Washington.

Great Things Are Being Accomplished

LAKE WALES, Fla.—Dear Evangel Readers, we praise God for our work here. We cannot begin to tell all He has done for us. Great things are being accomplished, whereof we are indeed very grateful.

In the beginning of Brother L. B. Hammond's pastoral year here, he soon saw the need of Sunday School classrooms and began talking same, or putting on a drive to raise money for that purpose.

Our Sunday School has been good; for the past four months we have had an average of more than one hundred each Sunday. Our offerings have been splendid also. We set a goal to reach each Sunday, and thus far we have reached the goal, and more. At the present time we have several hundred dollars in the treasury for the building fund. Oh, praise our God from whom all blessings flow! We are serving a great God who is able to do great things. Some are talking of building a new church with classrooms, and if we continue believing and trusting God, putting works with our faith, we can surely put things over for Him.

In our regular services the Lord comes on the scene and blesses our souls. A number of people have yielded to Christ and testified to being saved, sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Our Y.P.E. is very good. We have a fine band of young people, however, a goodly number do not know Christ as their personal Savior, but all are willing to work, sing, play their instruments, etc. We have a string band and when they are present, oh what music and singing . . . inspiring to everyone!

This week we are having a series of services, especially for the young people, with two young men from Arkansas in charge. The Lord is wonderfully blessing. Three have testified to being saved and one sanctified already. Let us pray that this will be the time when many more of our young people will accept Christ.

We are expecting Sister Kinsley for another old-time, Holy Ghost revival in March. Pray for this revival.—Mrs. Hugh L. Lyles, 842 Osceola Ave.

Splendid Work in Every Department

RACINE, Ohio—I thank and praise the Lord for the Church of God at Mt. Moriah, Rt. 2, Racine, Ohio, and for the splendid work the members are doing in every department of the church.

My husband, Rev. Wm. H. Shell, and I came here to pastor the church the first of November, 1945. The first thing we did was conduct a three weeks' revival, in which the Lord really blessed.

The average Sunday School attendance at that time was about thirty-five, and the Y.P.E. attendance about twenty-five or less. Now the Sunday School average is from forty-five to fifty; the Y.P.E. is really going over the top. Last Friday night we had eighty-three present. The regular offerings are from six to eight dollars each Y.P.E. service.

Our W. W. B. consists of both women and men. During the month of November we raised \$99.66 and furnished the new parsonage without going in debt. The generous public and members together donated part of the furniture and general household necessities, then the W.W.B. purchased the rest. The house really

looks nice.

For all this we give praise to our God, and we especially praise Him for His unfailing love and for the wonderful and simple way He helps and teaches us.

We are about to begin another revival. Please pray that many souls will be saved, for that is what we are most interested in, besides keeping ourselves ready, momentarily, for the appearing of our Lord.—Mrs. Wm. H. Shell, Rt. 2.

New Church Result of Revival

LEBANON, Tenn.—I came to Lebanon last August 2, 1945, with one of the state tents and conducted a revival for two weeks. A storm destroyed the tent, but from that revival we have built a 30x40 church building. It is almost debt free.

Rev. G. R. Watson, our state overseer, was here the last of January, followed by Rev. Harold Moore, our state Sunday School superintendent for a week. Eight were saved, four sanctified, two filled with the Holy Ghost, and one added to the church. I believe more will follow.

Last week, we raised our sights, and are going to build a five-room parsonage. Most of the lumber is already bought. We expect to start about March 1, 1946.

We thank God for his blessings, and desire that the saints remember us in prayer.—C. L. Barker, Box 510.

Saints Encouraged at Irvington, New Jersey

IRVINGTON, N. J.—Really, I feel led of the Lord to write and tell how encouraged we are here in the Irvington, N. J., Church of God. Brother J. N. Evans was our pastor last year, 1945. He and his dear wife and children surely went through a very hard place, but they stuck. When everything looked black and there were only three faithful members, my husband and I both thank God that they were faithful then, as I am sure the encouraging meetings that we are having now could not be if they had not been faithful.

Brother Buikler is our pastor now and he is surely a man of God. We just closed a three weeks' revival in which God wonderfully blessed. Brother Clyde Jones and his wife are humble and God used them in a wonderful way.

Praise God, He is still working.—Brother and Sister Wm. Roth, 677 Grove St.

SPOKANE BIBLE SCHOOL

(Continued from page 8)

you to do, then by all means come to Spokane Bible School. All Sunday School teachers and officers, Y.P.E. officers and group leaders, those who teach daily vacation Bible school, and all ministers of the gospel need three years in a good Bible School. So come with us and we will do thee good.

No Bible school is a bed of roses. Going to school means real hard work; it means a lot of sacrifice; it means that you will have to learn the secret of getting along with people from other states, whose ways and thoughts and beliefs are as different from yours as darkness from light; it means that you will have to learn obedience and self-subordination; and you will have to give up many of your ideas for better ones. But what person could meet these conditions without being a better servant of Jesus Christ?

Bible schools serve as sifters. They keep many people from entering the ministry who would enter it if they did not start to Bible school. Here is how:

Many people come to school, wearing rose-colored glasses, and expecting the preparation for the ministry to be one long vacation, free from work, study, sacrifice, and prayer. Then when they realize that they must get into the harness, settle down to serious business, and carry a load of responsibility and care; and they know, too, that this is only the beginning, that it will be this way as long as they stay in the ministry, some of them feel that they have missed their calling, so they pack up and go home.

Thank God because only a small minority are in the above class. Most of them are willing to get down to business and make every day in school count for Jesus. And those who hold out for three years, and get their diplomas, will have proven that they are called of God to a SPECIAL WORK, and that they are qualified for it. The church may recommend such persons with confidence and faith, believing that they will enter their chosen fields of labor and prove a blessing to a lost world.

We hope to have seven months of school next term. The term will begin about three weeks after the General Assembly will have convened.

BEGIN NOW TO PREPARE TO COME TO SPOKANE BIBLE SCHOOL IN 1946-47.

Address all inquiry and correspondence to E. E. Coleman, 2604 W. Dean Ave., Spokane 11, Wash.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

(Continued from page 2)

The healing of Norma Rose (Blackwell) Hardy of rheumatic fever and inflammatory rheumatism, she has been bedfast eight weeks; Naomi Ruth Blackwell to be healed of a pain in her side, we do not know if it is appendicitis or not but it is very bad at times.—Mrs. T. F. Blackwell, 1332 Michigan Ave., Joplin, Mo.

The Lord to heal me of T.B.—Mrs. Ida Davis, Centerville, Ark.

My uncle, Scott Harmon, St. Mary's Hospital, Emporia, Kans., to be healed of a serious kidney ailment, he is also a cripple; the Lord to heal me of a nervous condition.—Mrs. James P. Wolfe, 304 S. Howard, Union City, Ind.

The Lord to remove a needle from my hand which was broken off in it; unspoken request.—Mrs. J. F. Graham, Rt. 3, Box 176-A, Jonesboro, Ark.

The Lord to heal me of heart trouble and sugar diabetes.—Rev. C. F. Futrell, 1505 Shanklin Ave., Evansville 10, Ind.

The healing of a man of tumor of the brain.—John B. Moran, Box 180, Schoolfield, Va.

Me to be saved and healed of T.B. in both lungs, sinus trouble, and pleurisy; my little son to be healed also, doctors do not know if he has T.B. or not but are keeping him here for observation.—Mrs. Rachel Aycock, Sanatorium, Miss., Ward 3.

The Lord to heal my body.—Miss Margaret Dawson, Box 873, Lepanto, Ark.

The healing of my body, I have been an invalid for thirteen years.—Odath Moore, 728 W. Main St., Bethany, Mo.

God to heal our boy of Bright's disease, he is seriously ill.—Mr. and Mrs. James Bishop, Rt. 2, Brodhead, Ky.

Our little boy, he has flu, and other troubles.—Mr. and Mrs. James Hatchel, Rt. 1, Box 499, Blytheville, Ark.

My healing of T.B.—Allen Purdy, Parrott, Va.

God to heal my mother, Mrs. Laura Breedon, Rt. 1, Poplar Bluff, Mo. She has cancer of the stomach, and lung trouble; the healing of my body. Encouragement appreciated.—Alma Ellis, Box 46, Parma, Mo.

My little girl to be healed of flu, the healing of my family; the healing of my sister and her baby.—Vergie Dehart, Draper, Va.

My leg to be healed; Sister Sheppard to be healed.—Maggie Purvis, 2385 N. W. 68 St., Miami 38, Fla.

The healing of Sis. Hastings of sinus trouble.—Rev. George W. Dalton, Scottsboro, Ala.

The healing of my body.—Mrs. Nancy Forrest, Eckman, W. Va.

Mrs. Williams' baby, it has spinal meningitis; me to be healed of flu.—Mrs. M. S. Mitchell, 327½ E. Marion St., Nashville, Ga.

My healing of heart trouble.—Eli Hensley, 20th E. Liberty St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

The healing of our daughter.—Mrs. Geneva Day, Rt. 1, Box 41, Erwin, Tenn.

The Lord to undertake for my home.—Mrs. Eva Smith, Toledo, Ohio.

The healing of my little boy's eye.—Mrs. J. C. Pinion, Ashland, Ala.

My mother who is suffering from cancer, only God can help.—Mrs. W. G. McQuinn, Rt. 2, Surrency, Ga.

My mother, Mrs. E. E. Dell, to be healed of a trouble in her limb.—Mrs. Kirkland, Lake City, Fla.

God to undertake in our home, we truly need His help.—A Christian, North Carolina.

God to undertake for my home and me.—Mrs. Edward G. Parrott, 258 Kit-trell St., Henderson, N. C.

Me to be healed of ulcerated stomach and other ailments.—Avannah Alderman, Fort Green, Fla.

The healing of my little son, he has trouble with his head, we are trusting God for the operation and healing; my body to be healed; my home.—Mrs. Bertie Myers, Valley Rd., Rt. 3, Pulaski, Va.

Desires an Interest in Our Prayers

Dear Saints of God, please pray for me to be a humble child of the King. My heart's desire is to do something for the Lord. This is my first time to trust in the Lord. Dear Saints, my mind is on the Lord; I am a Christian and I have been trying the best I know to stay on the Lord's side. Please pray for me to receive the Holy Ghost. I am on fire for God, power from on high.

I am a prisoner. When I get out, I want to be the man I once have been. I really mean that from my heart. I have fifteen more years to mark and I want to live for God from now on.

I hope to hear from you. May God bless you all. Please pray for me.—Roosevelt Leach, Prison Camp 809, Box 281, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

TESTIMONIES

The Way Is Getting Better Every Day

GREAT FALLS, S. C.—Dear Evangel Readers, I feel today that I am a true child of the King. I have been in this way about four years, and it is getting better every day. I do thank and praise the Lord today for the way He has opened up my understanding, and has given me His Holy Word. Bless His great name.

I am not a preacher, but today I can hear Him calling me out into His work. I went about my work yesterday with Him talking to me and showing me His great work that is to be done. I got up this morning with Him still talking to me, and pointing out His great work here in this little town. I began to cry, and said, "Lord, help me." My wife was about her work in the house. I tried to keep my face hidden from her to keep her from seeing my tears, but I want to tell you that it is nothing to be ashamed of. My wife is unsaved, and if I let her see my tears when the Lord blesses my soul, it may touch her heart.

I have just moved here, and the little church seems to be cold. The people don't seem to care whether they come to church or not. Pray that God will move every hindrance, and that this will be a soul-saving station for the Lord. Remember this little church here, and God's great people, and the boy whom God's Spirit is upon for His great work here. We have a fine pastor and his whole heart is to get people to the Lord, the saints need to work with him. There is a great burden for them. Saints, let's go over the top for the Master.—Grover Ellis.

Praise Our Lord

CHRISTOPHER, Ill.—I want to write a few words of praise to our Lord. On Sunday, November 11, our pastor's wife, Sister Swart, suddenly took sick at Sunday School. She looked like she was dying. If ever I prayed and called on God in my life, I did then, so did the other good people. The Lord healed her and she began praising Him. She went ahead and taught her Sunday School class. The Lord is so wonderful to us all. We thank and praise God for the great Church of God.—Flora Jones.

The Best Friend I Ever Found

COLTEWAH, Tenn.—Dear Saints, I am still serving my Lord. I could not get along without Him; He has been so good to me, healed my body so many times, and He took care of my boys while they were away in that awful war. Oh, I have so much for which to praise Him. Jesus is the best friend I have ever found.

Dear Evangel family, I have a very urgent, unspoken request for which I ask you to pray. God knows all about it, so please help me pray. I would like to receive mail from all who wish to write.—Mrs. Dovie Willerson, Rt. 1.

Saved Before Killed in Action

(The following is a letter written by a soldier who was killed in action just a few days after he wrote it. His letters have caused his entire family to turn their thoughts to God. This letter was written to his sister here in Douglas. He had been converted through the efforts of a Navy chaplain in Hawaii just a short time before his last battle.)

February 11, 1945

"Dear Frances:

"How is everybody in your family? I haven't written for some time because I am on board ship, on my way into another battle. You will not receive this letter until after we have hit our objective. I have enjoyed this trip more than any of my previous trips because we have been having Bible classes every day and church on Sunday. We have been having prayer meetings every morning, too. We have been taking one chapter a day in the book of John, and we also have a different verse to learn each day. I didn't know before that so much joy could be found in the center of conflict. I am glad that I can put my trust in God and feel secure. I know that I will have life even after death.

"Frances, teach your children to find God through prayer. I only wish that I had been made to realize what God and Jesus meant to me when I was a child. It says in the Bible, that if we seek God first He will see that everything comes to us.

"Well, Sis, so long for now. With God's will I will be writing you again soon.—Love, your bud, Jack" (Jack L. Quigg, U. S. Navy, twenty years of age,

killed in the battle of Iwo Jima.) — Hazel Haber, Rest A Bit Court, Douglas, Ariz.

Feel the Effects of Prayer

CROMWELL, Ky. — Dear Evangel Readers, greetings in Jesus' name. I praise God for His wonderful goodness to me; I thank and praise Him for His keeping and healing power. Although confined to a wheel chair practically all my life, the Lord has wonderfully touched my body many times, with healing in His divine touch, and the aches and pains have been made to vanish.

The special healing I wish to testify of was that of last summer when I had a broken collarbone. I wrote to our General Overseer, Brother J. C. Jernigan, and Brother L. G. Rouse for prayer. Husband was in bed at the time with a broken leg and I almost had to be up to wait on him, so I sent for prayer, and was healed. Thank God! Then one day when the doctor came to see my husband, I asked him to look at my shoulder and tell me what was the matter. He said, "You have a broken collarbone." When I wrote for prayer I did not know what was wrong, but praise God, He strengthened me and healed me so that I was able to cook and wait on my husband.

A few days ago I was stricken with pleurisy and was suffering severely. I laid the Evangel on my side and prayed, and, praise the Lord, the next morning the pain was all gone and I got up on my wheel chair and got breakfast, the first meal that had been cooked in the home for two days. Oh saints, what a wonderful Savior we have! You know He said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," and oh, so many times we forsake Him, grieve Him, and put Him to open shame.

I really thank and praise God for picking me up and placing me on this highway of holiness, for sanctifying and filling me with the Holy Ghost. Bless His dear name. Saints, I have been held up on the wings of your prayers so many times. Please continue to pray for me, that I will stay humble and true, and that I will be ready when He comes or calls me to leave my wheel chair and go with Him to occupy that beautiful mansion He has prepared for me. I hardly ever get to go to church. Also pray for our church, that the works and influence of Satan may be removed from our little band at Oak Grove, and the church will rise and shine. — Mrs. Loretta Hudson.

UNMUZZLING THE OX

(Continued from page 5)

will come to him with things with which they would not go to anyone else in the world. It is his place to share your burdens with you. Don't keep your burdens from your pastor. We are to bear one another's burdens. The duty of the minister is to serve. Jesus said, "He that would be great must be servant of all," so that is the minister's place, pastors, evangelists, and missionaries as well.

THIRD

The ox not only carries the burdens and pulls all the loads, but he plows the ground and produces the bread. Rain or shine, sleet, or snow, he must plow on. Back in the days that Paul was telling us about, they didn't have tractors and riding cultivators as they have now. One man can cultivate several hundred acres now, but with the ox he had to keep going. He was the only dependence to bring in the bread that they ate. When other people are sleeping or gone visiting with their friends and relatives, the pastor has to be plowing away through the pages of God's Word, commentaries and books of knowledge; he must be burdened down on his knees to get something to set before the people to feed their hungry souls when they come to church. If he doesn't have a burning message to feed their souls with, they will soon get tired of him and stop coming to church. He must plow on and on; when the weather is cold or hot he plows on. You remember on one occasion Jesus said, "Peter, do you love me?" Peter said, "Yes, Lord." "Feed my sheep." Again He said, "Peter, do you love me?" Peter said, "Yes, Lord." He said, "Feed my sheep." The third time He said, "Peter, do you love me?" Peter said, "Yes, Lord." "Feed my lambs."

FOURTH

He did not say, "Peter, fleece my sheep or shear my sheep." He did not say, "Let them suffer and if one gets sick and won't eat, turn him out and let him go." He said, "Feed them, give them plenty to eat." It shows the cowardice of a minister to take advantage of the sacred pulpit to skin the sheep; take a poor little lamb who needs to be fed, consoled and encouraged, and hang his hide up and call his name out. That is murdering the sheep in place of feeding them. How sad it is to think that a minister would take advantage and beat them and bruise them, wound them and

break their hearts and drive them out into the cold, shivering and dying. When God said give them something to eat, He meant for us to feed them if we expect them to produce wool.

The ox was the choicest animal for sacrificial offering. They would kill him and burn him on the altar outside the gate. They could use a sheep, but the choice sacrifice was the ox. There are many people today who think that all the minister has to do is go visiting and eat fried chicken and have a big time. I want to say to you that the minister has to sacrifice as no one else has to sacrifice. The minister who is truly following God must lead the way in sacrifice. He must never expect his people to do more than he would do. Be willing to spend and be spent, his time, his money, and his life, for the people, if he is a true pastor and a true shepherd. Sad to say, some of our ministers don't set that example as they should.

FIFTH

"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox." There is one thing in this verse that stands out that should be noticed, "Thou shalt not." He did not say, "Please don't," but He said, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox." If the minister should bear the burdens, pull the loads, prepare the bread, feed the people, sacrifice his home and life, then God has said to the laity, to the church, the people, those to whom he is ministering, "Thou shalt not muzzle that ox." If you do, you are going to bring a curse from God upon you. He shall not be muzzled. Before threshing machines were invented, they used oxen to thresh the wheat. They spread it out on the floor, yoked up the oxen, and made them go around and around, threshing out the grain. It is all right to work the ox (the minister), and keep him busy, but keep the muzzle off. No one can be happy unless he is busy. Contented people are busy people, so don't be

afraid to keep him busy; but, keep the muzzle off and he will get fat while he is working. It doesn't matter how tall the corn grows, if you keep the muzzle on him he will soon begin to reel around, then it won't be long until you will have a dead ox on your hands. If you rob God by not paying your tithes, and refuse to cooperate with the minister and support the work of the church, souls will go to hell. Many people are so close that they refuse to obey God and loose the minister and let him go, and souls are dying for the gospel, going down in despair, crying and wailing in the regions of the damned for the lack of God's Word being preached. "How shalt he preach except he be sent?" It is pitiful to think of how God's work has been hindered because people have failed to see their duty on both sides.

What do we mean by this? Listen, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, . . . and prove me . . . saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes." He will bless you abundantly; but, if you will not hear, "I will send a curse upon you and I will curse your priest," saith God. If all the people who are called by God's name, those who claim to be filled with God's Spirit and blessing, would obey this scripture, you would see one of the best revivals this country has ever had. Some of the oxen that have the muzzle on would be released; some of the ministers who have had to get them a job and go to work to help feed their wives and children, could lay down their saws, hammers, paint brushes, picks and shovels, and pick up the Sword of the Spirit of God, which is His Word, the Bible, and begin to fight the good fight of faith and sing the good song "I'm on the Battlefield for My Lord."

Jesus said—"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Rev. 3:20.

I called to see you today, but you were not at home. I will call again. If there is sickness or sorrow, or any other reason why you would like to have me call, please let me know at once.

I invite you to worship in your church, and to bring others. I not only covet the opportunity to serve you in the pulpit, but ask your prayers so that together we may be able to make the church a real live force in our community.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor

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CHURCH OF GOD PUB. HOUSE
Cleveland, Tenn.

TAKING INVENTORY

(Continued from page 3)

who to call upon when they need prayer. They know who can pray the fervent prayer. We cannot fool people if we don't have victory, so why try to fool ourselves. Jesus said in His great sermon on the mount, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Salt is a preservative. It prevents corruption and spoilage of food. A little salt will go a long way for it is penetrating. When fresh meat is salted down, the salt works slowly but constantly into the meat, on down to the very bone. We do not see the salt at its work for it works silently, but we can trust its results. Salt is an indispensable element for it is found in every home. Many homes that are destitute of luxuries contain a box of salt. If salt were removed from our food, it would not have the good flavor it has with the salt, for this adds to the food's taste.

It is true that Christian people may be in the minority many times, but what a powerful minority! The world is in a state of wickedness already, but think of the corrupted state it would be in if the Christians were suddenly taken out of the world. The Christian people, like salt, are constantly helping broadcast the gospel to the lost people of the world. The influence of their lives is reaching out far and near. Perhaps many will never know the good they are doing while in this life, but there is a reward awaiting the faithful at the end of this age. Let us never lose that salty flavor of truth and right that is imparted to us from God. Salt is a remedy for tasteless meat, but there is no remedy for tasteless salt. When we lose the salty flavor, we lose our influence for God.

Let us examine our love. 1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." 1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." Do we have perfect love? Are we showing it in deed and in truth? Some people say they have love, yet their works prove differently. Love is a proof of discipleship for Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," John 13:35. Remember, it was love that caused the Father to

give His Son to this lost and dying world. God so loved He gave His Son; the Son loved and gave His life. Jesus did not come to condemn the world. The world was already condemned. Jesus came to offer deliverance to the world that was under this condemnation. God created man to have fellowship with Him. God could come down in the garden in the cool of the day to talk with Adam and Eve. Everything was in perfect harmony until sin broke that beautiful fellowship. Yet God did not leave man in that condition. He immediately began a way to bring man back to God. He clothed Adam and Eve with coats of skin, showing an innocent animal had to suffer for their sin. Then God instituted the Levitical priesthood. Here was an altar where the priest could offer up a sacrifice for the people, and that sacrifice would atone for their sins for a year. But these sacrifices could never change the heart of man. So they were just a substitute, used until the time came for Christ to offer Himself as a sacrifice for man's sins. The blood from the animal sacrifices pointed to the time when Christ's blood would be shed and offer perfect cleansing to those who would accept it.

Christ is our great example of love. His love was a sacrificial love. It was unchanging, for He loved His own until the end. His love was constraining. It has a compelling force. When we think of the love He manifested for us, we cannot afford to ignore His plan

of salvation. His love was divine, for He said, "As the Father hath loved me so have I loved you..."

Let us examine our attitude toward Christ. Are we obeying His call today? You may say, "I am not called to do anything." You may not be called to preach or teach, but every Christian should work toward winning lost souls to God. We determine our attitude toward God by the way we trust His Word. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments," John 14:15. Let us be sure to obey Him.

How about our attitude toward our brothers and sisters in Christ? Paul said in Gal. 5:13, "...by love serve one another." Do we do this, or do we always want to be the one to receive the most attention? We show our love for God by the attitude we have for each other. Rom. 12:3 says, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Let us resolve through this year to live a little closer to God than ever before. Let us remember to respect His Word by studying it more than in the past, for this is our rule of life while on this earth. May God help each reader to examine himself and profit by that examination.

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